



2012 DEER HUNTING INFORMATION AND ON-LINE/TOLL FREE TELEPHONE CHECK-IN SYSTEM

Your Deer Permit entitles you to participate in the privilege of deer hunting. Please review this information to assure that you comply with all of the deer hunting regulations. While hunting please respect the rules of good sportsmanship and the property of others. Have a safe and successful deer hunt.

And remember – **SAFE HUNTING IS NO ACCIDENT.**

ATTENTION HUNTERS: Deer check-in system on-line at www.dnr.illinois.gov/vcheck, or call toll-free 1-866-IL-CHECK

Attention Cell Phone Users: The most common reason hunters are unable to complete their harvest reporting is because of a poor cell phone connection. Once you have properly tagged your deer, you have until 10 p.m. on the day of harvest to report. Wait until you are out of the woods and receive a clear, strong cell phone connection before placing your call.

Successful deer hunters must report their harvest using an automated check-in system. They may choose to report harvest on-line at www.dnr.illinois.gov/vcheck, or by telephone (toll-free) at 1-866-452-4325 (1-866-IL-CHECK). For your convenience, this number is also printed on the front of your deer permit. Immediately upon kill and before the deer is moved, transported or field dressed the hunter must cut out the designated notch on the leg tag to invalidate it, and the tag shall be attached and properly sealed. Hunters must check in their harvest via telephone by 10 p.m. on the day of kill. The deer must remain whole (or field dressed) until it has been checked in. When checking in their deer, hunters will be asked to provide a variety of information to assist biologists in managing Illinois' deer population. Please look over the questions listed on the back of your permit prior to making the call, and be prepared to answer them when asked. After providing all of the information, hunters will be given a 10-character confirmation number to verify that they checked in their harvest. The confirmation number must be written onto the leg tag in the appropriate boxes, so please have a pencil or pen handy when making the call (an extra-fine tipped permanent marker works best). If the condition of the tag precludes writing on the tag in the appropriate space (i.e., bloody, etc.), the confirmation number shall be written elsewhere on the tag, or onto a piece of paper and attached to the deer along with the temporary harvest tag. The leg tag and confirmation number must remain attached to the deer until it is at the legal residence of the person who legally took or possessed the deer, the deer has been checked in, and final processing is completed.

In instances where deer are checked in while the hunter is still afield, the deer may not be dismembered while afield beyond quartering the animal. If quartered, all parts of the carcass (except the entrails removed during field dressing) must be transported together and evidence of sex must remain naturally attached to the carcass. Evidence of sex is:

- A) for a buck: head with antlers attached to carcass, or attached testicle, scrotum, or penis,
- B) for a doe: head attached to carcass, or attached udder (mammary) or vulva.

If the head/antlers are delivered to a taxidermist for processing, the confirmation number must be recorded on the "head tag" portion of the permit and both must remain with the deer while at the taxidermist's. If the carcass is taken to a meat processor, the temporary harvest tag (leg tag) with confirmation number must remain with the deer while it is processed, and until it is at the legal residence of the person who legally took or possessed the deer. Persons delivering deer/parts of deer to a tanner for processing must supply the tanner with either their deer permit number, their confirmation number, or written certification by the person from who the deer was received that the specimen was legally taken or obtained.

The primary purpose of registering deer harvest is to gather biological information necessary for proper management. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) is committed to gathering this information.

2012 DEER HUNTING SEASONS

Archery: Oct. 1 through Jan. 20 in Cook, DuPage, Lake and that portion of Kane County east of State Route 47. In all other counties and that portion of Kane County west of State Route 47 the archery deer season is Oct. 1 through Jan. 20 EXCEPT archery hunting is CLOSED for the two seasons of firearm hunting. Archery deer hunting is OPEN during the muzzleloader-only and youth firearm and the late-winter & CWD deer seasons (Dec. 27 - 30 & Jan. 18 - 20, 2013).

Youth Firearm: October 6 & 7.

Firearm: A full season permit allows hunting November 16, 17 & 18 and November 29, 30 and December 1, 2. A second season only permit allows hunting November 29, 30 and December 1, 2.

Muzzleloader Only: December 7, 8 & 9. You may also use a muzzleloader permit with a muzzleloader during the second firearm season on November 29, 30 and December 1, 2.

Permit: Before hunting, you must sign your permit. Your deer permit shall be carried on your person while hunting.

Bag Limit: One deer per legally authorized permit. All either-sex permits are subject to the following restriction: no hunter, regardless of the quantity or type of permits in his/her possession, may harvest more than 2 antlered deer during a year, including the youth, archery, muzzleloader and firearm seasons. For purposes of this bag limit, deer seasons are considered to be in the same year if their opening dates fall within the same 12-month period that begins July 1. A hunter in possession of an either-sex permit after having harvested 2 antlered deer during a year may only use the permit to harvest an antlerless deer. Subject to this restriction, an either-sex permit holder is allowed to take a deer with or without antlers during the legal season. An antlerless-only permit holder is allowed to take only a deer without antlers or a deer having antlers less than 3 inches long during the legal season.

License: In addition to your deer permit, you must have a valid Illinois Hunting, Sportsmen's or Apprentice License unless you are:

- A person who is disabled and able to show proof of disability in the form of one of the following:
 - a. A State disabled person I.D. card (available from the Secretary of State through the drivers license examining station) showing a P2, P2A, H2 or H2A disability.
 - b. Veterans disability card (at least 10% service related); available from local Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs offices.
- An Illinois resident on active duty and on leave from the U.S. Armed Forces.
- A landowner or tenant residing on farm lands, or the children, parents, brothers and sisters permanently residing on such lands, and hunting only the lands resided on.

ILLINOIS LAW REQUIRES NON-RESIDENTS TO HAVE A NON-RESIDENT HUNTING LICENSE IN ADDITION TO A PERMIT AND HABITAT STAMP.

Habitat Stamp: Before any person 16 years of age or older takes, attempts to take, or pursues a deer, he or she shall first obtain a State Habitat Stamp. Disabled veterans and former prisoners of war shall not be required to obtain State Habitat Stamps. Any person who obtained a Lifetime license before January 1, 1993, shall not be required to obtain a State Habitat Stamp. Licenses/stamps are available at DNR Direct Automated License System agents, by phone at 1-888-6Permit or www.dnr.illinois.gov

FIREARM OWNERS I.D. CARD (Issued by Illinois State Police): Regardless of who owns the gun, anyone who has a firearm, including muzzleloaders, or firearm ammunition in their possession must have in their possession a valid Firearm Owners' I.D. (F.O.I.D.) Card unless he or she is: a) A licensed out-of-state-sportsman hunting in Illinois, or b) Under the age of 21 and under the immediate control of a parent, guardian, or responsible adult who has in their possession a valid F.O.I.D. Card. FOID Card Information 217-782-7980.

- Hunters shall not have in their possession, while in the field during deer season, any deer permit issued to another person.
 - It is illegal to use salt, corn or any other kind of bait. An area is considered as baited during the presence of and for 10 consecutive days following the removal of bait. **NOTE:** Feeding deer is also illegal, although there are certain exemptions such as food plots. Consult the hunting digest for more complete information.
 - Permits will not be reissued in circumstances involving deer that are found to be diseased or infected from old injuries to the point that the meat is inedible. Legal disposal of unfit deer taken shall be the responsibility of the hunter.
 - In those counties where deer hunting is permitted, it is unlawful to hunt or trap any species protected by the Wildlife Code, except migratory waterfowl, unless the blaze orange clothing required for deer hunters is worn during the firearm deer seasons.
 - It is unlawful to take or attempt to take deer:
 - a. in excess of the legal limit.
 - b. during closed season.
 - c. by use of dogs*, horses, automobiles, aircraft, boats or other vehicles.
- * This does not prohibit the use of a dog to track wounded deer.
- Totally white white-tailed deer are protected by Illinois Law and are illegal to kill.

2012 DEER HUNTING REGULATIONS



ARCHERY

Hunting Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. No bow and arrow device shall be carried with the arrow in the nocked position during hours when deer hunting is unlawful.

Hunting Devices: The only legal hunting devices to take, or attempt to take deer are: a long, recurved, or compound bow with minimum pull of 40 pounds at some point within a 28-inch draw. Minimum arrow length is 20 inches, and broadheads must be used. Broadheads may have fixed or expandable cutting services; but they must have a minimum 7/8 inch diameter when fully opened. Broadheads with fixed cutting surfaces must be

metal or flint-, chert-, or obsidian knapped; broadheads with expandable cutting services must be metal. All other bows and arrows, including electronic arrow tracking systems, are illegal.

A crossbow device is illegal except for: a) Permanently disabled persons, as defined by law (520 ILCS 5/2.33), may apply to the IDNR's Office of Law Enforcement (217-782-6431) for an exemption to allow the use of a crossbow (a physician's certification is required); or b) Persons age 62 and older may hunt with use of a crossbow without first obtaining a crossbow permit. A valid photo i.d. with proof of age must be carried by persons age 62 and older.

Crossbows used in hunting shall:

- have a minimum peak draw weight of 125 pounds and a maximum peak draw weight of 200 pounds.
- have a minimum overall length (from butt of stock to front of limbs) of 24 inches.
- have a working safety.
- be used with bolts or arrows of not less than 14 inches in length (not including point)
- use broadheads as defined above.

Any mechanical device capable of maintaining a drawn or partially drawn position on a bow without the hunter exerting full string tension is illegal, except for those hunters using a crossbow.

Hunting Area: All Illinois counties. Permission to hunt on private property must be obtained from the property owner or tenant.

Property Only Hunting Permit Holders: All of the land owned, leased or rented in counties open for deer hunting. A hunting rights lease, or other non-agricultural lease, is not valid as a basis for obtaining a property only hunting permit.

Clothing: No special clothing is required, EXCEPT during the muzzleloader-only season (December 7, 8 & 9) and the Youth Firearm Season (Oct. 6 & 7) and the late-winter & CWD deer seasons (Dec. 27 - 30 & Jan. 18 - 20, 2013) and on those DNR sites that allow archery deer hunting during the firearm deer season (November 16, 17 & 18 and November 29, 30 and December 1, 2). Any person attempting to take or taking deer by use of a bow and arrow shall wear, when in the field, a cap and upper outer garment of solid blaze orange color, displaying a minimum of 400 square inches of blaze orange material in all Illinois counties open to those seasons.

- It is unlawful:
 - to carry any firearm or sidearm while hunting deer with a bow and arrow.
 - for any person having taken the legal limit of deer by bow and arrow to further participate with bow and arrow in any deer hunting party.
 - to drive deer, or participate in a deer drive, on all Department owned or managed properties. A deer drive is defined as a deliberate action by one or more persons (whether armed or unarmed) whose intent is to cause deer to move within archery range of one or more participating hunters.



FIREARM, MUZZLELOADER-ONLY and YOUTH

Hunting Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. Persons hunting deer must have gun unloaded during hours when deer hunting is unlawful. Removal of percussion cap or removal of prime powder from frizzen pan with frizzen open and hammer all the way down or removal of prime powder from flashpan and wheel unwound or removal of prime powder and match with match not lit, or removal of the battery from the CVA electronic ignition muzzleloader, shall constitute an unloaded muzzleloading firearm.

Legal Firearms: You may use either a shotgun, muzzleloader or a handgun with a firearm permit. Shotguns must be not larger than 10 nor smaller than 20 gauge (a rifled barrel is legal), not capable of firing more than three consecutive slugs (buck-shot or birdshot is illegal). Minimum barrel length is 18 inches. Handguns are not legal for youth season.

A muzzleloading firearm is defined as a firearm that is incapable of being loaded from the breech end.

Muzzleloaders: a single or double barreled muzzleloading firearm of at least .45 caliber shooting a single projectile through a barrel of at least sixteen inches in length; must be percussion cap (a shotgun primer is a legal percussion cap), wheellock, matchlock or flint type ignitions only, except the Connecticut Valley Arms (CVA) electronic ignition shall be legal to use and only use black powder or a "black powder substitute" such as Pyrodex. Modern smokeless powders (nitrocellulose-based) are an approved blackpowder substitute only in muzzleloading firearms that are specifically designed for their use.

Handguns: The only legal handguns are centerfire revolvers or centerfire single-shot handguns of .30 caliber or larger with a minimum barrel length of 4 inches. It shall be unlawful to take or attempt to take white-tailed deer by the use of semi-automatic handguns, muzzleloading handguns, or handguns altered to allow for shoulder firing.

The only legal ammunition for a centerfire handgun is (1) a bottleneck centerfire cartridge of .30 caliber or larger with a case length not exceeding 1.4 inches, or (2) a straightwalled centerfire cartridge of .30 caliber or larger, with no minimum case length; both of which must be available with the published ballistic tables of the manufacturer showing a capability of at least 500 foot pounds of energy at the muzzle.

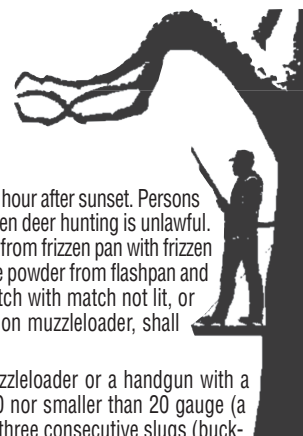
Non-expanding military-style full metal jacket bullets cannot be used to harvest white-tailed deer; only soft point or expanding bullets (including copper/copper alloy rounds designed for hunting) are legal ammunition.

Hunting Area: Firearm, Muzzleloader & Youth Permit Holders: the specific county or hunt area for which the permit is issued. Permission to hunt on private property must be obtained from the property owner or tenant. Property Only Hunting Permit Holders: All of the land owned, leased or rented in the counties open for deer hunting. A hunting rights lease, or other non-agricultural lease, is not valid as a basis for obtaining a property only hunting permit. UNFILLED property only hunting firearm deer permits are valid during the muzzleloader-only season (with a muzzleloading rifle) and the late-winter antlerless-only firearm season (if open in that county). Each Youth Deer permit holder is required to be accompanied by a parent/guardian or responsible adult who possesses a valid Firearm Owners Identification (F.O.I.D.) Card. The accompanying adult must be present for the permit holder (youth) to hunt. The adult is not allowed to hunt during the youth season only.

Special Note: Any unfilled firearm, muzzleloader or youth permits except special hunt area permits that were valid during the previous firearm, muzzleloader-only or youth seasons are valid during the late-winter antlerless-only firearm season (if open in that county), but the holder may only harvest antlerless deer.

Clothing: Any person attempting to take or taking deer by use of a firearm shall wear, when in the field, a cap and upper outer garment of solid blaze orange color, displaying a minimum of 400 square inches of blaze orange material.

- It is unlawful:
 - to possess a rifle in the field during gun deer season EXCEPT muzzleloading rifles used by deer hunters only. No person may have in his possession any firearm not authorized by administrative rule for a specific hunting season when taking deer.
 - for any person having taken the legal limit of deer by firearm to further participate with a firearm in any deer hunting party.
 - to drive deer, or participate in a deer drive, on all Department owned or managed properties. A deer drive is defined as a deliberate action by one or more persons (whether armed or unarmed) whose intent is to cause deer to move within firearm range of one or more participating hunters.



This is only a guide to the highlights of the rules and regulations governing deer hunting. More complete information is available from the Department of Natural Resources Regional Offices, Wildlife Resources, Law Enforcement Office or the Permit Office.

Region I - Sterling, 815-625-2968; Region II - Bartlett 847-608-3100; Region III - Clinton, 217-935-6860; Region IV - Alton, 618-462-1181; Region V - Benton, 618-435-8138; Chicago, 312-814-2070; Springfield - Permit Office, 217-782-7305; Hunter Safety Education Classes, 1-800-832-2599. IDNR information is available to the hearing impaired by calling DNR's TTY: 217-782-9175. IDNR Website: www.dnr.illinois.gov

Violations of the provisions of Title 17, Chapter 1, Subchapter b, Parts 650, 660 & 670, of the Illinois Administrative Code, or Chapter 520, Illinois Compiled Statutes, in addition to other penalties, may result in deer hunting privileges being suspended.